

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all previous listings of claims in the present application.

What is Claimed is:

1. (Original) An electronic voting system comprising:

- a ballot card;
- an accepting apparatus which issues a ballot card in accordance with a vote acceptance request; and
- at least one voting apparatus which performs voting processing in accordance with a vote request using the ballot card,

wherein said accepting apparatus includes acceptance time recording means for recording acceptance time on the ballot card when issuing the ballot card, and

said voting apparatus includes

timeout detecting means for, before performing voting processing upon reception of a vote request, determining whether or not a preset timeout time has elapsed from the acceptance time recorded on the ballot card to the time of voting, and

warning display means for outputting a warning message when said timeout detecting means determines that the timeout time has elapsed.

2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein

said accepting apparatus further comprises voter ID recording means for, when the ballot card is to be issued, recording, on the ballot card, a voter ID indicating information for uniquely identifying the voter who uses the ballot card, and

said voting apparatus comprises

voter ID list recording means for recording the voter ID recorded on the ballot card as a voter ID list upon completion of voting processing, and

voter ID list storage means for storing the voter ID list.

3. (Original) A system according to claim 2, wherein said accepting apparatus further comprises voter ID search means for making a search to check whether or not a voter ID as search target is recorded on said voter ID list storage means.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 2, wherein said voting apparatus further comprises voter ID list erasing means for erasing a voter ID list recorded on said voter ID list storage means.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein
said system further comprises a voter ID checking card for checking a voter ID,
said accepting apparatus further comprises checking voter ID recording means for recording a voter ID as a search target on said voter ID checking card, and
said voting apparatus further comprises checking voter ID reading means for reading a voter ID as a search target from said voter ID checking card.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein
said voting apparatus comprises a plurality of 3 voting apparatuses connected to each other through a network, said plurality of voting apparatuses comprise voter ID list recording means for recording a voter ID, recorded on said ballot card, as voter ID list, and
said voter ID search means makes a search through the network to check whether or not a voter ID as a search target is recorded on voter ID list storage means in other voting apparatuses.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 2, wherein
said ballot card comprises
an acceptance time recording area on which acceptance time is recorded, and
a voter ID recording area on which a voter ID is recorded.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 2, wherein

said ballot card comprises a voting status recording area on which voting information indicating finished voting is recoded, and

said voting apparatus comprises voting status recording means for recording voting information indicating finished voting when voting is normally finished.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 8, wherein said accepting apparatus further comprises erasing means for erasing voting information recorded on said voting status recording means.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing unauthorized use of a ballot card which uses an electronic voting system including

an accepting apparatus which issues a ballot card in accordance with a vote acceptance request, and

at least one voting apparatus which performs voting processing in accordance with a vote request using the ballot card, comprising the steps of:

recording acceptance time on the ballot card when issuing the ballot card,

before performing voting processing upon reception of a vote request,

determining whether or not a preset timeout time has elapsed from the acceptance time recorded on the ballot card to the time of voting, and

outputting a warning message when ~~it is determined~~ a determination is made that the timeout time has elapsed.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of

when the ballot card is to be issued, recording, on the ballot card, a voter ID indicating information for uniquely identifying the voter who uses the ballot card, and

recording the voter ID recorded on the ballot card as a voter ID list

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of making a search to check whether or not a voter ID as a search target is recorded on the voter ID list.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of erasing a voter ID list.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of
recording a voter ID as a search target on a checking card, and
reading the voter ID as the search target from the checking card.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 11, further comprising the steps of
finishing voting processing,
recording a voter ID recorded on the ballot card as a voter ID list, and
making a search to check whether or not a voter ID as a search target is recorded
on a voter ID list in another voting apparatus through a network.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of
normally finishing voting processing, and
recording, on a ballot card, voting information indicating that voting is finished.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of erasing
voting information recorded on a ballot card.

18. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a program for preventing
unauthorized use of a ballot card in an electronic voting system including
an accepting apparatus which issues a ballot card in accordance with a vote
acceptance request, and
at least one voting apparatus which performs voting processing in accordance
with a vote request using the ballot card,
the program being constituted by a program for executing

a procedure for recording an acceptance time on the ballot card when the ballot card is issued, [[and]]

a procedure for, before performing voting processing upon reception of the vote request, determining whether or not a preset timeout time has elapsed from the acceptance time recorded on the ballot card to a time of voting, and

a procedure for, when the ballot card is to be issued, recording, on the ballot card, a voter ID which is information for uniquely identifying a voter using the ballot card.

19. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 18, wherein the program further comprises a program for executing a procedure for recording [[a]] the voter ID as a search target on a checking card.

20. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 18, wherein the program further comprises a program for executing

~~a procedure for, before performing voting processing upon reception of a vote request, determining whether or not a preset timeout time has elapsed from the acceptance time recorded on the ballot card to the time of voting, and~~

a procedure for outputting a warning message when ~~it is determined a~~ determination is made that the preset timeout time has elapsed.

21. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 18, wherein the program further comprises a program for executing

a procedure for finishing voting processing,

a procedure for recording the voter ID, recorded on the ballot card, as a voter ID list, and

a procedure for making a search to check whether [[a]] the voter ID as a search target is recorded on the voter ID list.

22. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 21, further comprising a program for executing a procedure for erasing [[a]] the voter ID list.

23. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 21, further comprising a program for executing a procedure for reading [[a]] the voter ID as a search target from a voter ID checking card.

24. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 18, further comprising programs for executing

a procedure for finishing voting processing,

a procedure for recording [[a]] the voter ID, recorded on the ballot card, as a voter ID list, and

a procedure for making a search through a network to check whether or not a voter M as a search target is recorded on [[a]] the voter ID list in another voting apparatus.